Estella Patterson 4B, Year 6, 2016

Fantastic Foxes

Introduction

Foxes are mammals. There are thirty seven breeds of foxes but only twelve belong to the name ‘Vulpes’. They include Arctic Foxes, Red Foxes, Fennec Foxes and Gray Foxes. Male foxes are called tods and females are called Vixens. The scientific name is Vulpes Vulpes.

Appearance

All foxes have a similar appearance, however they are unique in their own way. Arctic Foxes are the biggest foxes, they are eighty to a hundred and ten centimetres long. Not far behind is the Red Fox, which is forty five to ninety centimetres long. Finally, the smallest fox, Fennec Foxes are just twenty four to forty one centimetres long. Foxes have a flattened skull, upright triangular ears, a slightly upturned, pointed snout and a long bushy tail. Like most mammals, foxes have four legs. Did you know that Red Foxes can run at fifty kilometres per hour?

Diet

Foxes are omnivorous mammals. This means they eat any meat and any plant. They have a large diet of fruits, berries, grasses, birds, squirrels, rabbits and mice. They also eat invertebrates (animals lacking a backbone) such as crickets, caterpillars, grasshoppers, beetles and cray fish.

Habitat

Foxes live in all continents except Antarctica. They can go from sub-tropical regions to icy tundra. Foxes inhabit almost every habitat. They can live in forests, grasslands, deserts, sea cliffs and sand dunes. They make lairs under tree trunks and in hollow trees. Did you know that Arctic foxes do not shiver until minus seventy degrees Celsius?

Conclusion

Foxes are endangered because they are being hunted for their fur. If this continues, it will disrupt the ecosystem. Foes are pest control animals. They eat pests like rabbits and mice. If they become extinct, there would be no predators for these animals.